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CLAIMS:

1. A method for determining the gastric emptying by orally administering a test substance and measuring its dwelling time in the stomach, characterized in that the increase of $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ in the exhaled respiratory air is determined before and after the oral administration of free ^{13}C -octanoic acid together with a standardized test meal.
2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said test meal consists of a fried egg into which the free ^{13}C -octanoic acid is stirred, whereupon it is eaten together with a slice of toasting bread, 5 to 10 g of